

December 23, 2005

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RE: **LIFE-CYCLE 2006** – Connecticut Siting Council Investigation into the Life-Cycle Costs of Electric Transmission Lines.

Dear Mr. Carberry, Attorney Maldonado, Attorney Fitzgerald, and Attorney Golden:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than January 10, 2006. To help expedite the Council's review, please file individual responses as soon as they are available.

Please forward an original and 20 copies to this office. In accordance with the State Solid Waste Management Plan, the Council is requesting that all filings be submitted on recyclable paper, primarily regular weight white office paper. Please avoid using heavy stock paper, colored paper, and metal or plastic binders and separators. A list of parties and intervenors is enclosed. Fewer copies of bulk material may be provided as appropriate.

Yours very truly,

S. Derek Phelps
Executive Director
SDP/MP

c: Council Members
Parties and Intervenors

LIFE-CYCLE 2006
CL&P Pre-Hearing Interrogatories, Set Two

1. How does your company define the “life cycle cost” of a transmission line?
 - a. What are the major components of life cycle cost?
 - b. Are line termination costs included, such as protection? If so, please specify which equipment items are, and are not, included.
 - c. Is the cost of losses an element of life cycle cost? Why or why not?
2. Do you estimate your company’s transmission line capital and construction costs to be higher, lower, or about the same as those for other Northeastern utilities? If your costs are higher or lower, specify why you believe this is so.
3. Do you estimate your company’s transmission line operating and maintenance costs to be higher, lower, or about the same as those for other Northeastern utilities? If your costs are higher or lower, specify why you believe this is so.
4. List the most important factors affecting overhead transmission line capital costs and briefly discuss their relevance to your system.
5. List the most important factors affecting underground transmission line capital costs and briefly discuss their relevance to your system.
6. Describe your company’s overall philosophy related to siting and constructing new transmission facilities.
7. How are transmission and distribution system planning activities coordinated or integrated to optimize the costs of new construction and maintenance?
8. How and where is the cost of right-of-way acquisition included in the capital cost information your company provided in response to the Life Cycle Cost Interrogatories issued earlier under this docket?
9. What vegetation management practices are used on the transmission rights-of-way on your system?
10. If herbicides or growth retardants are used, what is the cost impact of their use compared to traditional trimming and mowing?
11. Are there additional environmental or safety costs associated with the use of herbicides or growth retardants? What are they?
12. What is the approximate cost per mile for vegetation management for various typical rights-of-way?

13. Provide information on the differences in capital costs and construction costs for standard conductors (e.g. ACSR) and composite conductors (e.g. ACCR, ACCC).
14. Comment on the annual variations in transmission line O&M expenses, as previously reported to FERC on the Form 1 for 1999 to 2004, i.e., what O&M cost factors impact total costs to create annual variations of up to 50 percent?